

Passed 31st of
Dec. 1806.

An ACT to lay out and open a public road in Hopkin's Neck, in Talbot county.

Preamble.

WHEREAS it is represented to this general assembly, by the petition of sundry inhabitants of Hopkin's Neck, in Talbot county, that they are situated at some distance from the public main road leading from Easton to Hadaway's Ferry, and having no permanent road or outlet to the said main road leading from Easton to Hadaway's Ferry, they are subject to many inconveniencies, and praying that a law may pass to remedy the evils complained of, as stated in their said petition; and the prayer of the petitioners appearing reasonable and just, therefore,

Commissioners
appointed, &c.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That John Dawson, Robert Banning, Perry Spencer, Richard Denny and Thomas S. Denny, or any three of them, be and they are hereby appointed and commissioned to survey, mark, bound, open and lay out, a public road, at the proper charge and expence of such petitioners as actually reside in said neck, not to exceed twenty feet wide, beginning at or near Anthony Banning's gate, as the said commissioners, or a majority of them, may think best, until it shall intersect the main road leading from Easton to Hadaway's ferry; and in laying out said road, the said commissioners, or a majority of them, are directed to take into view, as well the disadvantages which may result to individuals over whose land the said road may run, as the convenience of the public, so as to lay out the said road with as little injury to the private property as will comport with the public convenience.

Who are to re-
turn a plot, &c.

III. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said commissioners, or a majority of them, are hereby directed to return a plot of said road, when surveyed, marked, bounded and laid out, as aforesaid, to the clerk of the county, to be by him recorded; which road, when laid out, opened and cleared, fit for general use, shall be deemed and taken a public road for ever thereafter, and shall be kept up and repaired as all other public roads in said county are; provided, that nothing herein contained shall in any manner authorise the said commissioners to lay out or open the said road through the buildings, yards, gardens, orchards or meadows, of any person or persons, without his, her or their consent.

And ascertain
damages, &c.

IV. AND BE IT ENACTED, That the said commissioners, or a majority of them, shall ascertain and value what damages may be sustained by any person or persons through or on whose lands the said road may pass, and the same, when so assessed, shall be paid before the said commissioners shall proceed to open the said road; provided always, that if any person or persons through or on whose lands said road shall pass, or his, her or their guardian or trustee, shall conceive themselves aggrieved by such valuation and assessment of damages by the said commissioners, it shall and may be lawful for any justice of the peace of said county, upon the application of the person or persons so aggrieved, to issue his warrant to the sheriff of the county, commanding him to summon twelve freeholders of said county, not interested in the premises, and qualified to serve as jurors, to appear on a day by the said justice to be appointed, on the premises, and the said sheriff is hereby authorised to administer an oath to the persons so summoned, that they will, without favour, affection, prejudice or partiality, assess the damages sustained by the person or persons at whose request such inquisition shall be taken, by reason of opening the aforesaid road through or on his, her or their lands, and the persons so summoned and sworn shall thereupon proceed to assess and value the damages accordingly, of which the said commissioners, or a majority of them, shall have at least five days previous notice, and shall return the said damages, so assessed, to the county court of said county; and such inquisition shall be final and conclusive, and the said valuation or damages shall be paid to the parties respectively entitled to the same, before the said commissioners shall proceed to open said road.

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Preamble.

An ACT for the relief of William Rickard, of Montgomery county.

WHEREAS William Rickard, of Montgomery county, emigrated to, and settled in, this state, and since his emigration and settlement as aforesaid has acquired real property therein, and his title to such property may be called in question, to his great injury, from his not having become naturalized agreeable to the laws of the United States before acquiring said property; therefore,

Title vested,
&c.

II. BE IT ENACTED, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the title of the real property, lawfully and fairly acquired by the aforesaid William Rickard, whether such title be derived by gift, grant, purchase or devise, be and the same is hereby as amply and as fully vested in the said William Rickard, as if the said William Rickard had become naturalized agreeable to the laws of the